

INFORMATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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COUNTRY Indonesia

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SUBJECT Iwa Kusuma Sumantri, a Communist in Java

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Malay edition of Sin Po, dated 8 February 1949, reports that Iwa Kusuma Sumantri is on his way to West Java to create chaos there. It is reported that Ibnu Parna will join Sumantri, which is a possible indication that such true Communist leaders as Mohamad Yamin and Supranoto may soon come to Batavia.

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2. Sumantri, who is 46 years of age, studied law at the University of Leiden, and was interned by the Dutch before the war. He is known to be thoroughly anti-Dutch and a Communist. Sumantri was Minister of Labor in Sutan Sjahrir's first cabinet. He participated in the insurrection of July 1946 at Jogjakarta, and was imprisoned by order of Sukarno until April 1948, when he was released.

3. It is expected that Sumantri will preside over the Politburo of Tan Malaka's Partai Komunis Indonesia in West Java, possibly in Bandung. He is supported by those communists who soon hope to be led by Ibnu Parna, the commandant of the Angkatan Komunis Muda (Indonesian Young Communist Corps).

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Comment. Parna was one of the important speakers at the Indonesian Youth National Congress of 12 September 1948 in Jogjakarta, who criticized the Linggadjati and Renville pacts, and who stated that elements disguised as proletarians are detrimental to the revolutionary cause, and must be eliminated.

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